

AMENDED CLAIMS (Marked Up Version)

What is claimed is:

1. A fluid transfer material for use in a system for transferring fluid, the fluid transfer material comprising:
at least one cured thermoset material; and
at least one thermoplastic material melded thereto, characterised in that there is sufficient thermoset material to create an open structure of the fluid transfer material.
2. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, further comprising at least one fibrous material, of which, together with the thermoset material, there is sufficient to create said open structure of the fluid transfer material.
3. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, wherein at least one said thermoset material is chopped, shredded or fragmented.
4. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, wherein at least one said thermoset material comprises rubber.
5. A fluid transfer material according to claim 4, wherein said rubber is from recycled tyres of motor vehicles.
6. A fluid transfer material according to claim 2, wherein at least one said fibrous material is selected from the group comprising straw, wood and an inorganic material.
7. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, wherein at least one said thermoplastic material is recycled.
8. A fluid transfer material according to claim 7, wherein said recycled thermoplastic material is chopped or shredded.
9. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, wherein said fluid transfer material is at least partially surrounded by netting, preferably a fine mesh net.

10. A fluid transfer material according claim 1 further comprising at least one selected from the group of mica and vermiculite.
11. A fluid transfer system comprising:
a conduit for carrying fluid; and
a fluid transfer material according to any of the preceding claims, the fluid transfer material cooperating with said conduit for transferring fluid thereto and/or therefrom.
12. A fluid transfer system according to claim 11, wherein said conduit is a gutter arranged in use below an elongate length of said fluid transfer material.
13. A fluid transfer system according to claim 11, wherein said conduit is an elongate pipe having means for enabling passage of fluid between the interior and exterior thereof and said pipe being at least partially surrounded by an elongate length of said fluid transfer material.
14. A fluid transfer system according to claim 13, wherein said means for enabling the passage of fluid between the interior and the exterior of the pipe comprises at least one aperture in the pipe.
15. A fluid transfer system according to claim 13, wherein said means for enabling the passage of fluid between the interior and the exterior of the pipe comprises at least one slot arranged in the upper part of said pipe in use.
16. A fluid transfer system according to claim 13, wherein said means for enabling the passage of fluid between the interior and the exterior of the pipe comprises said pipe being porous.
17. A fluid transfer system according to claim 11, wherein said system is used for one selected from the group comprising drainage and irrigation.
18. A method of making a fluid transfer material comprising the steps of:-
mixing together at least one thermoset material, optionally at least one fibrous material, and at least one thermoplastic material to form a mixture;

placing said mixture in a mould; and

heating said mixture so as to cause the melding of said at least one thermoplastic material to the other materials, there being sufficient thermoset material, and fibrous material when present, to create an open structure of the fluid transfer material.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of preheating said mixture before it is placed in said mould.
20. A method according to claim 18, wherein said mixture is heated by the introduction of a heated gas into the mixture.
21. A fluid transfer material for use in a system for transferring fluid, the fluid transfer material comprising at least one fibrous material mixed with and melded to at least one thermoplastic material.
22. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, wherein said material is formed by an extrusion process.